The Office Action states that Lizuka discloses the claimed "storing, in a memory a set of URLs found by a search engine in a search" as storing a list of URLs returned as a result of a search query (col. 1, lines 54-57); "accessing a first web page identified by a first URL included in the set of URLs found by the search engine" as accessing the returned list of URL based on a search query (col. 1, lines 58-62); "finding, in the first web page, a link to a second web page identified by a second URL" (see Fig. 9A-9C). However, the Office Action also states that Lizuka does not explicitly disclose the use of "determining whether the second URL is included in the set of URL stored in the memory" and "marking the link when the second URL is included in the set of URL stored in the memory". Further, the Office Action states that Bogonikolos discloses an analogous system that shows that every page is a collection of links, wherein a first link constitutes the root of the page and by following it anyone can reach the actual corresponding URL of the web server (page 3, col. 1, lines 30-36). Moreover, the Office Action states that Bogonikolos discloses that "the link to the home page leads to the home page of the web server, while by following link 3 are led to a new page with the node 3 as root and links to sub-trees with nodes 31 and 32 as root, and that one can get to page 3 by following the root link". The Office Action states that these implications disclose the claimed "determining whether the second URL is included in the set of URL stored in the memory" and "marking the link when the second URL is included in the set of URL stored in the memory". Accordingly, the Office Action states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of the cited references, wherein the integrated retrieval technique provided in Lizuka Fig. 3 would incorporate the use of marking the link when the second URL is included in the set of URL stored in the memory, in the same conventional manner as disclosed by Bogonikolos. Also, the Office Action states that one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to utilize such a combination for the purpose of providing users with access only to the

information that has significant possibility to be interesting, thereby exploiting their time more effectively and increasing their productivity.

Referring to the Lizuka patent, Applicants submit that Lizuka discloses an integrated retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from HTML documents, where a user enters a search request into a query processing unit. The query processing unit refers to the Meta data stored in the HTML document storing unit, where the Meta data specifies the locations, document structures and presentation styles of HTML documents. The query processing unit acquires the HTML documents, extracts information from the HTML documents with the use of the specified meta data and conditionally processes the extracted information, if necessary. Lizuka discloses managing the structure of semi-structured documents (e.g., HTML documents) by individually managing the input forms of plural search engines and retrieving information item by item from plural semi-structured documents (HTML documents) through plural search engines without bothering the user with differences among the search methods of various web sources. In particular, Lizuka discloses storing and managing document structures of HTML documents in template files, which stipulate names of items from which information pieces are to be extracted. A URL template table relates template files to the URLs or file names of HTML documents to be searched. When a user specifies a URL or a file name, the Lizuka invention: refers to a proxy setting file to acquire a corresponding HTML document; refers to the URL template table to acquire a template file; and scans the acquired HTML document for information pieces to be extracted according to the template file. Thus, Lizuka discloses ways to retrieve relevant information by storing and managing the Meta data regarding HTML documents found using one or more search engines.

Applicants note that the Office Action refers to Figs. 9A-9C in Lizuka as disclosing "finding, in the first web page, a link to a second web page identified by a second URL".

Applicants point out that there is no Fig. 9C in the Lizuka patent. Further, upon studying Figs. 9A and 9B, Applicants submit that Figs. 9A and 9B do not disclose "finding, in the first web page, a link to a second web page identified by a second URL", but rather Fig. 9A is an example of an HTML document (concerning product information of a Shop A) displayed on a web browser and that Fig. 9B shows an HTML description corresponding to the HTML document shown in Fig. 9A.

Referring to the Bogonikolos article, Applicants submit that Bogonikolos discloses "Archimides, an intelligent agent that aims to provide intelligent, adaptive and personalized navigation within a web server", wherein Archimides "performs an intelligent information retrieval and then constructs a personalized version of the server in the form of an index, where links are dynamically inserted or deleted according to a user's interests, preferences and behavior". By codifying nodes, that is, storing parent-child relationships, Archimides is able to perform an easy and fast search of the ancestors (parents) and descendants (children) of any node. In particular, Archimides adapts in three ways: 1- when a user provides options or preferences explicitly; 2- when nodes have been marked as interesting but are not, so are deleted from the personalized version of the web; or 3- when nodes have not been marked as interesting, but actually are, so are inserted into the personalized version of the web. Archimides is able to adapt by observing the user's behavior and measuring the user's interest based on how much time the user spends on a web page. In general, a web page is assigned an initial interest parameter value and this value changes every time the user accesses the web server. If a web page's interest parameter value is less than a predetermined limit then the page is removed from the personalized version of the web. On the other hand, if the web page's interest parameter value is greater than the predetermined limit, then the page is inserted into the personalized version of the web. Archimides observes the user's behavior during navigation and only after

the user is disconnected, Archimides updates the user's preferences. Accordingly, Bogonikolos discloses following links to get to either a parent or child node, but does not disclose any method of analyzing a node to determine whether the node meets a user's search criteria. Instead, the user could be following links that do not meet the user's search criteria, but are links that the user has spent some time on.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of Lizuka and Bogonikolos does not amount to the present invention. Instead, combining the Lizuka patent (which provides an integrated retrieval scheme that is capable of retrieving required information from a plurality of semi-structured documents that have different document structures, presentation styles, and information elements, converting the retrieved information into a unified form for each user and returning the information in the unified form to the user) with the Bogonikolos article (which presents Archimides, an intelligent agent that performs an intelligent information retrieval and afterwards constructs a personalized version of the server in the form of an index to pages that present some interest to the user, with the index being a much shorter version of the web server with links that are dynamically inserted or deleted according to the user's interests, preferences and behavior), with the motivation of efficiently exploiting the user's time and increasing productivity, would lead to a combination where the combined invention would provide an integrated retrieval scheme that is capable of: retrieving required information from a plurality of semi-structured documents; converting the retrieved information into a unified form for each user; observing the user's interests, preferences and behavior (by tracking how much time the user spends on a web page); and constructing a personalized version of the server in the form of an index to pages (search result) that presents some interest to the user. Applicants submit that the proposed combination of Lizuka and Bogonikolos does not

suggest any sort of comparison of a second URL link shown on a first web page with the URLs stored in the browser's memory.

The present claims require determining or comparing to determine whether the second URL is included in the set of URLs (stored in a memory) found by a search engine and, if so, marking the link when the second URL is included in the set of URLs stored in the memory. In this respect, the proposed combined teachings of Lizuka and Bogonikolos do not disclose, teach or suggest determining or comparing whether a second URL is included in a set of URLs stored in a memory, thus, the proposed combination of Lizuka and Bogonikolos does not render the present claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentably distinguishable from the prior art references (Lizuka and Bogonikolos) and that the rejection of the present claims based on these references must be withdrawn. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present claims.

Finally, the Examiner is advised that the Associate Power of Attorney form mailed on December 18, 2003 (see attached copy) incorrectly states the zip code as "25712". The correct zip code is 27512. Please make a note of the correct zip code for all future correspondences.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, with sufficient postage as first class mail (37 CFR 1.8 (a)).

(Signature of person mailing paper)

3-3-04
Date